

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 071623Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7329

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 05893

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, GW, FR, UK

SUBJECT: FURTHER NOTES ON FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS GDR

REF: STATE 44049

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF THIS WEEK, PLAISANT, QUAI DIRECTOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, ADDED SOME GRACE NOTES TO ACCOUNT ON FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS WHICH FRENCH EMBOFF RECENTLY PROVIDED DEPARTMENT (REFTEL NOTAL).

2. PLAISANT SAID THAT PRESIDENT GDR VOLKSKAMMER GOETTING'S VISIT TO PARIS FEBRUARY 18-20 PROVIDED FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO "ELABORATE A LITTLE" ON PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD GOVERN FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS. AFTER LISTENING TO GOETTING'S OPENING STATEMENT TO EFFECT GDR WANTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FRANCE -- A STATEMENT WHICH PLAISANT SAID WAS "SO STAND-CONFIDENTIAL

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ARD IT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE IN TEGUCIGALPA" -- SAUVAG-

NARGUES MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) FRANCE, IN ITS RELATIONS WITH GDR, WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO "DOT ALL THE I'S," BUT WILL "NOT LET ANY DOTS BE TAKEN OFF ANY I'S EITHER."

(B) SPECIFICALLY, SAUVAGNARGUES CONTINUED, THIS MEANS THAT IN DEVELOPING FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS, THE BASIC ALLIED POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE FRG MUST NOT BECOME AFFECTED.

(C) THE GDR SHOULD THEREFORE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS ON GERMANY ARE "SACRED," AND THAT IN FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS, ONE "NEVER DISCUSSED BERLIN."

3. AS REGARDS FRENCH-GDR AGREEMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION PLAISANT ADDED FOLLOWING POINTS TO SUBSTANCE REFTEL:

(A) AS REGARDS A ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENT, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID FRENCH COULD NOT ACCEPT A TEXT CASTING DOUBT ON ANY ASPECT OF THREE POWER ACCESS RIGHTS TO BERLIN.

(B) WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED FRENCH-GDR CONSULAR AGREEMENT, GDR REPS DID NOT RAISE THE NATIONALITY QUESTION. HOWEVER, SAUVAGNARGUES COMMENTED THAT FRENCH, FOR THEIR PART, WERE NOT EAGER TO "RAISE CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS FOR THEIR OWN SAKE."

(C) LASTLY, FRENCH CONFIRMED THEIR IMPRESSION IN THIS CONVERSATION THAT GDR RESISTANCE TO A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE, WAS DUE TO FEAR THAT IT MIGHT INHIBIT THEM FROM SENDING CAREFULLY HANDPICKED PEOPLE ON EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, AS IS THE CASE NOW, UNDER PROGRAMS MANAGED BY THE FRENCH-GDR ASSOCIATION.

4. PLAISANT SAID THAT GOETTING DID PRESS FOR A FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN PARIS THIS YEAR. SAUVAGNARGUES TOLD HIM THAT, GIVEN THE STATE OF PLAY, THIS WAS PREMATURE. THE FRENCH INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY MIGHT ACCEPT A VISIT BY A GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN
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MINISTER LATER THIS YEAR, PARTICULARLY IF PROGRESS IS MADE IN SETTLING THE CASES OF THE 50-SOME FRENCH-GDR DUAL NATIONALITY FAMILIES WHO ARE CURRENTLY STUCK IN THE GDR.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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